

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ABIDJAN ACCRA BRASILIA
GEORGETOWN ISLAMABAD LAGOS LIMA NAIROBI OTTAWA SANTIAGO
SINGAPORE MARCH 21, FROM USUNNY REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE:

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PBOR, UN

SUBJ: LOS: SUBCOMMITTEE I, MARCH 19

1. SUMMARY: US REP GAVE MAJOR STATEMENT ON PROVISIONAL
REGIME AND MACHINERY. THERE WAS WIDESPREAD RESPONSE.
MOST DELS DID NOT COMMENT ON SPECIFICS BUT ACKNOWLEDGED
PROPOSALS WERE IMPORTANT AND MOST URGED THEY BE GIVEN
SERIOUS CONSIDERATION. A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES EXPRESSED
SATISFACTION THAT USG HAD COME OUT IN OPPOSITION TO H. R. 9
BUT SEVERAL WERE UNHAPPY THAT U. S. DID NOT GO FARTHER AND
INDICATE PERMANENT OPPOSITION TOWARDS LEGISLATION. MOST
WHO SPOKE EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE U. S. SUGGESTION FOR
A STUDY BY THE SECRETARIAT ON PRECEDENTS FOR AN INTERIM
REGIME.

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2. CHRISTOPHER PINTO GAVE REPORT ON PROGRESS TO DATE OF WORKING GROUP ON SEABED PRINCIPLES. CHILE, WITH SUPPORT OF NORWAY AND ITALY, ASKED THAT SEVERAL SESSION OF SUBCOMMITTEE I BE SET ASIDE FOR POLITICAL ANALYSIS OF FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES INVOLVED IN SEABED REGIME DEBATE.

3. US REP GAVE STATEMENT ON PROPOSING CONSIDERATION OF ESTABLISHING PROVISIONAL REGIME AND MACHINERY. COPIES OF SPEECH WITH CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY OF MARCH 1, 1973 WERE DISTRIBUTED TO ALL OF SUBCOMMITTEE I DELEGATIONS. SELECTED DELS HAD BEEN GIVEN ADVANCE COPIES.

4. CHILE REP MADE FIRST RESPONSE TO US STATEMENT SAYING US OPPOSITION TO H. R. 9 WAS VERY POSITIVE AND WELCOME BUT REGRETTED THAT US HAD NOT TOTALLY EXCLUDED POSSIBILITY OF USING NATIONAL LEGISLATION TO PERMIT CORPORATIONS TO EXPLOIT THE SEABED. HE STATED COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION OF SEABED AREA IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH RECOGNIZED GENERAL CONCEPTS REFLECTED IN DECLARATION ON PRINCIPLES. HE DESCRIBED PROVISIONAL REGIME PROPOSAL AS VERY INTERESTING AND MERITING CONSIDERATION BUT RESERVED RIGHT TO SPEAK ON PROPOSAL LATER.

5. THIS THEME WAS ECHOED BY A NUMBER OF OTHER DELEGATIONS. CANADIAN REP SAID US PROPOSAL WAS VERY IMPORTANT. HE NOTED PROPOSAL HAS ADVANTAGE THAT IT PRESUPPOSES ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL MACHINERY.

6. GUYANA REP SAID THAT, DESPITE THE AUTHORSHIP OF PROPOSAL, IT WAS EXTREMELY CONSTRUCTIVE AND DESERVED CONSIDERATION. GUYANAN REP SAID DESPITE DISAGREEMENTS WITH SEVERAL US ASSUMPTIONS, HE SUPPORTED CONCEPT OF PROVISIONAL REGIME. SENEGAL REP SAID PROPOSALS WERE VERY IMPORTANT AND CONSTITUTED PRAISEWORTHY EFFORT BUT EXPRESSED RESERVATION THAT US PROPOSALS DO NOT ADEQUATELY REFLECT ROLE AND NEEDS OF LDC' S. PERU REP SAID HE WAS COMFORTED BY REJECTION OF H. R. 9 BUT WAS CONCERNED THAT REJECTION SEEMED ONLY TEMPORARY. HE ALSO COMPLAINED THAT US WAS PRESENTING SEABED COMMITTEE WITH CERTAIN CONDITIONS WHICH, IF NOT MET, WOULD RESULT IN UNILATERAL US ACTION.

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7. GHANA REP SAID MERIT OF US PROPOSAL IS TO AVOID

UNDUE DEALY IN EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION OF SEABED.
HE EXPRESSED HOPE US POSITION ON H. R. 9 WAS NOT
TEMPORARY. KENYA REP SAID HE WELCOMED ATTEMPT BY
EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO RESTRAIN LEGISLATIVE BRANCH REGARD-
ING H. R. 9. HE MADE NO COMMENT ON PROVISIONAL REGIME
PROPOSAL. IVORY COAST REP PRAISED US DEL EFFORTS REGARD-
ING PROVISIONAL REGIME WHICH IT DESCRIBED AS VERY
IMPORTANT BUT DID NOT COMMENT SPECIFICALLY.

8. PAKISTAN REP EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR " CONSTRUCTIVE"
US PROPOSALS. HE HAD BEEN IN FULL SYMPATHY WITH KUWAIT' S
MORATORIUM DECISION BUT US PROPOSAL GOES " A LONG WAY"
TO MEET CONCERNS OF THESE WHO SUPPORT MORATORIUM. BRAZIL
REP SAID PROPOSAL IS CONSTRUCTIVE BUT COMPLAINED THAT IT
ASSUMED A 200- METER ISOBATH LINE AND THAT IT IS NOT
POSSIBLE TO RULE OUT POSSIBILI
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